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DCI/ICS 83-4233
4 February 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

Director, Intelligence Community Staff

FROM: [REDACTED]

Acting Chief, Planning and Policy Staff

SUBJECT:

Computer Security Proposal

1. [REDACTED] and I have reviewed [REDACTED] proposal regarding computer security, and I have discussed it by telephone with [REDACTED]

2. Both George and I were surprised at the estimated cost for consultant support. George guesses that he and Ruth misunderstood one another as to whether this support would be funded totally within the project or "borrowed" from various agencies already having contracts with the proposed consultants. George believes if the latter approach is taken, the total cost can be brought down to around \$130,000. Firm commitments will be required from the supporting agencies, however, to donate this support and to provide unreserved access on the part of a contractor [REDACTED] to all pertinent data and facilities. (C)

3. The tone of the proposal will have to be changed somewhat to comply with Federal statutes which forbid Government employees from being subordinated to contractors. Perhaps [REDACTED] could be viewed as the Principal Consultant to a Community-wide Computer Security Management Project which will be supported by 2.5 man-years of professional Government staff effort and cleared clerical effort as required under the general direction of the COTR, [REDACTED]

4. The stated Project Objectives should probably be recast somewhat to clarify that we are as much if not more concerned about future systems and networks, which are the real drivers for long-range planning and coordinated R&D, than about extant systems. With respect to the first Project Objective by itself, it must be recognized that analytic characterization of the hostile threat to US intelligence computer systems is confounded by a dearth of hard data. Thus it will likely remain very difficult, if not impossible, to quantify this aspect of our systems' vulnerabilities. It will continually be necessary to confront the school of thought which holds that one need not "harden" one's computer systems until it can be proved that they have actually been targeted or attacked by the opposition. (S)

5. Comments directed at specific wordings are as follows:

Section I. Paragraph 2:

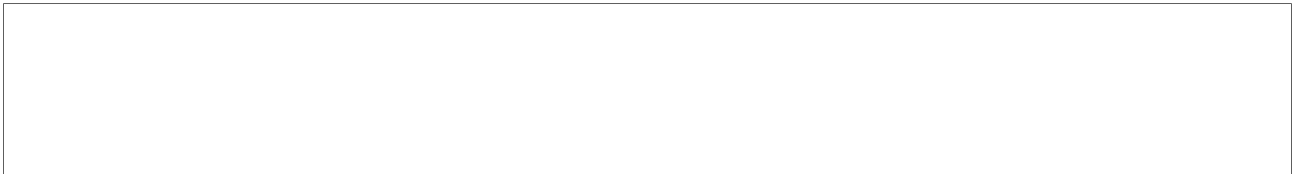
[REDACTED]


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6. I hope these comments are helpful. Clearly  has proffered a responsive proposal. She will be a valuable contributor to our computer security efforts. Before we and she sign on the dotted line, however, we must be certain that we will be able to contribute our fair share of support to the effort. Please let me know if I can help further. (C)

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